



SRCA Newsletter Article January 2009



2008 Review

The Question: Can you give us a year-end summary of your 2008 fire prevention activities?

Answer: We completed 100-foot fuel breaks for eight neighborhoods. They were:

Hunter's Pointe--65 homes;
Hunter's Point North--64 homes;
Loire Valley--14 homes;
Chantemar--170 homes;
Elderwood Lane--8 homes;
Mira Lago--18 homes;
Riesling--13 homes; and,
Eastwind Point--7 homes.

That's a total of 359 homes and 57 acres.

We also assisted with the formation of four new North County Fire Safe Councils: Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Lake Hodges, and Ramona.

Question: Didn't you start a new program to help homeowners make their homes more fire safe?

Answer: Yes, we launched an interactive computer program to assist homeowners in determining the actions they should take to prepare for the next wildfire. It has been determined that 80% of the homes destroyed in the Rancho Bernardo fire could have been spared had they been prepared in advance. Firebreaks help prevent the "wall of flame" from reaching structures, but showers of wind-driven embers can travel a mile or more. Information on this program is available at [www.srfiresafecouncil.org].

Question: What about 2009?

Answer: We have new grant funds to assist 13 more neighborhoods to establish a 100-foot firebreak. However, the economy has brought our work to a halt. We'll have to wait and see. Meanwhile, we will place greater emphasis on helping individual homeowners eliminate the hazards in and around their homes.

If you have any questions, contact the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council at 945-6303 or [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com]